Preface

As we emerge into the twenty-first century, the diagnosis of systemic disease is reaching a new level of sophistication. In this regard, the skin is emerging as a diagnostic window of systemic disease. In addition, many patients in the arena of managed care are opting to see their primary care physician as a first line of entry into the medical system. In this setting, it is important for the primary care physician to recognize the cutaneous markers of systemic disease in order to increase the ability to treat some of the commonly encountered inflammatory dermatoses and gain increasing recognition of the diagnostic clinical signs of commonly encountered skin cancers.

In the first part of this issue of *Medical Clinics of North America*, commonly encountered inflammatory dermatoses including psoriasis, acne, and rosacea are expounded upon.

The second part of the issue emphasizes diseases of the skin and nails, while the third segment discusses the cutaneous manifestations of systemic diseases and markers of internal malignancy, hypersensitivity disorders, and infectious diseases.

The final part of this issue emphasizes primary cutaneous skin cancers, venous disease sequelae, and disorders of pigmentation as commonly noted in our diverse ethnic world.

It is hoped that the present treatise will give physicians, both primary care doctors and specialists, an improved insight as to how to recognize cutaneous manifestations of internal disease and increased sophistication in the management and recognition of commonly encountered inflammatory processes and skin cancers. This knowledge will enable physicians to deliver improved patient care or provide optimal specialty-referred capabilities.

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